



Be informed about the Indiana Department of Correction

Weekly Views

From the Office of J. David Donahue, Commissioner

“A volunteer is a person who can see what others cannot see; who can feel what most do not feel. Often, such gifted persons do not think of themselves as volunteers, but as citizens – citizens in the fullest sense: partners in civilization.” ~ George H.W. Bush

Friday, May 16, 2008

Members of the State Budget Committee met at Westville Correctional Facility to see and discuss the fiscal impact of the new electric stun fence that was installed and the dorm renovations that are in progress, which will replace all electrical, plumbing, and mechanical systems in the units using no outside labor.

Two Camp Summit students were recognized this week by the Indiana Council of Teachers of Mathematics (ICTM) for excellence in math. Both received special certificates and were recognized at Camp Summit's community meeting.

The Grace College Collegiate Commencement was held at Indiana State Prison. 12 offenders received Associate's and Bachelor of Science degrees.

Correctional Industrial Facility held a "brief back" meeting to discuss the effectiveness of Employee Appreciation Week. The overall consensus was that everyone had an enjoyable week with good food and fun events, which included bowling, a jail program, a silent auction, and ice cream social.

Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility had 13 offenders recently pass the GED test, 3 of which passed with honors.

Crews from Camp Summit began construction on two homes in LaPorte for Habitat for Humanity. These homes are the 10th and 11th homes Camp Summit has helped to construct over the past several years.

PEN Products has made its first delivery of known origin firewood to Turkey Run and Shades State Parks. This pilot project employs 10-15 offenders at Putnamville Correctional Facility, and the wood is obtained from downed trees at Putnamville.

Northeast Juvenile Correctional Facility students crocheted 66 hours and made pillows, lap shawls, and blankets to be donated to nursing homes and hospice groups. Students also cleaned litter from a wooded area as part of their community service.

Correctional Industrial Facility completed a PREP (Preventative Relationship Enhancement Program) weekend where 9 couples participated.

Staff and offenders of Indiana Women's Prison coordinated a fundraiser dinner from Buca di Beppo's that raised \$200 for the IWP Family Preservation Center.

The Wabash Valley Correctional Facility K-9 crew tracked down the Sullivan County-based Haddon Blue Ribbon Hustlers 4-H Club this week. They provided the youngsters with a demonstration of facility drug and search dogs. A question and answer period followed the event.

Branchville Correctional Facility's PLUS Unit presented a check for \$500 to the Big Brother/Big Sister organization. A partnership between the facility and Big Brother/Big Sister is in the works to help provide services for children affected by parental incarceration.

Putnamville Correctional Facility held a Community Advisory Board meeting where the winners of the Black History Month essay and art contests gave presentations, an overview of the Equine Management Program graduation was given, and ASCA data and facility updates were given to the Board members. Sue Murray, Mayor of Greencastle, attended for the first time.

Indiana State Prison staff sponsored a training day for the children of the Inter-City Baseball League. Prison staff, ARAMARK staff, and offenders' clubs are sponsoring 6 teams this year. The goal is to aid children who wouldn't otherwise be able to afford being in the league.

Indiana Women's Prison hosted the Oakland City University offender commencement ceremony. Offender families and facility staff were in attendance as 14 offenders received their Associate's and Bachelor's degrees in General and Business Studies.

Because it is going out of business, Curves Fitness Center on the west side of Indianapolis has agreed to donate gender-specific exercise machines to Indianapolis Juvenile Correctional Facility.